

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A container for storing a sample, the container comprising:
a receptacle having a lower wall and a side wall, the side wall having an inner surface,
and
a plurality of projections extending upward along and outward from the inner surface of the side wall, the projections defining a region for receiving a sample having an orientation, the projections being shaped and arranged to inhibit a change in the orientation of the sample when stored in the container.
2. (Original) The container of claim 1 wherein each of the projections has a cross-section having at least a first side, a second side, and a third side, the first side facing the inner surface of the receptacle, the second and third sides being substantially planar.
3. (Original) The container of claim 2 wherein the second side is oriented in a direction substantially perpendicular to the third side.
4. (Original) The container of claim 1 wherein each of the projections has a cross-section having a substantially hemispherical shape.
5. (Original) The container of claim 1 wherein the projections are formed integrally with the receptacle.
6. (Withdrawn)
7. (Original) The container of claim 1 wherein the receptacle has a height and a cross-section having a first extent, the first extent of the cross-section being substantially constant over the height.
8. (Withdrawn)
9. (Withdrawn)
10. (Original) The container of claim 1 further comprising a cover for confining the sample within the receptacle, the cover being removably attached to the receptacle.
11. (Original) The container of claim 10 wherein the cover engages the receptacle to form a fluid-tight seal.
12. (Original) The container of claim 10 wherein the cover threadably engages the receptacle.
13. (Original) The container of claim 1 further comprising a base having a top surface, wherein the sidewall extends upward from the top surface of the base.
14. (Original) The container of claim 13 wherein the sidewall extends in a direction substantially perpendicular from the top surface of the base.

15. (Original) The container of claim 13 wherein the projections extend upward from the top surface of the base.
16. (Original) The container of claim 10 wherein the projections extend in a direction substantially perpendicular from the top surface of the base.
17. (Original) The container of claim 13 wherein the base has a first end and the container further comprises a marking panel extending from the first end of the base, the marking panel having a substantially smooth surface for receiving identifying indicia.
18. (Original) The container of claim 17 wherein the marking panel forms an angle with the top surface of the base, the angle being at least 90 degrees.
19. (Original) The container of claim 17 wherein the marking panel is formed integrally with the base.
20. (Original) The container of claim 13 wherein the base has a top surface and a bottom surface, the bottom surface having a plurality of protrusions extending downward therefrom, the protrusions being shaped and arranged to permit an identification panel containing identifying indicia to be removably and securely attached to the container.
21. (Original) The container of claim 13 wherein the base has a top surface and a bottom surface, the bottom surface having an interior recessed portion and an exterior raised portion, the exterior raised portion having a plurality of protrusions extending outward therefrom and downward toward the recessed portion, the protrusions being shaped and arranged to permit an identification panel containing identifying indicia to be removably and securely attached to the container.
22. (Original) A container for storing a sample, the container comprising:
 - a base having a top surface and a first end,
 - a receptacle extending upward from the top surface of the base, the receptacle having an inner surface and a cross-section having a substantially circular shape,
 - a cover threadably engaging the receptacle and forming a fluid-tight seal therewith for confining the sample within the receptacle and inhibiting desiccation thereof,
 - a marking panel extending from the first end of the base, the marking panel having a substantially planar surface for receiving identifying indicia, and
 - a plurality of projections extending upward along and outward from the inner surface of the receptacle and upward from the top surface of the base, each of the projections having at least a first side, a second side, and a third side, the first side facing the inner surface of the receptacle, the second and third sides being substantially planar, the second side being oriented in a direction substantially perpendicular to the third side, the projections being shaped and arranged to inhibit a change in the orientation of the sample when stored in the container.

ELECTION

In the Office Action, the Examiner divided the claimed subject matter into three pairs of Groups and required the Applicants to elect one Group from each pair of Groups for prosecution.

The Examiner presented the groups as

- Group 1a, Fig. 3c, (varied cross-section);
- Group 1b, Fig. 4, (constant cross-section);
- Group 2a, Fig. 3b, (circular cross-section);
- Group 2b, not shown, (oval cross-section);
- Group 3a, Fig. 3b, (integral protrusions); and,
- Group 3b, not shown (removeable protrusions).

The Examiner also identified claims 1-3, 10-13, 15, and 17-21 as being generic.

Applicants elect with traverse Group 1b, Group 2a, and Group 3a. Applicants consider claims 1-5, 7, and 10-22 to read on the elected species.

Applicants elect with traverse to the extent that the Examiner's identification of the species for Groups 1a and 1b appears to be mistaken. Applicants note that the Examiner refers to Figs. 3c and 4 as showing different species. As indicated on page 4 of Applicant's specification, Figs. 3c and 4 are both views of the embodiment shown in Fig. 3a, in which Fig. 4 illustrates a cover attached to a receptacle. As such, Applicants submit that Figs. 3c and 4 do not show different species.

Applicants also elect with traverse to the extent that claims 4 and 16 are generic. Applicants note that claims 4 and 16 are directed to features of the projections, and not to features of the receptacle. As such, Applicants submit that claims 4 and 16 are generic.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner clarify the restriction requirement in a subsequent Office Action.

Applicants withdraw claims 6, 8, and 9 as being drawn to non-elected subject matter.

Upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will respectfully request consideration of claims directed to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowed generic claim. In particular, Applicants will respectfully request consideration of withdrawn claims 6, 8, and 9.